

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached three (3) sheets of drawings includes changes to FIGs. 1-3. These sheets, which includes FIGs. 1-3, replace the original sheets including FIGs. 1-3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (3)

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (3)

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claim 6 is amended only to address a minor informality, and Claims 14-20 are added by the present amendment. Support for the amendment is found at least at ¶¶0021, 0027, 0031-36 and FIGs. 2-3. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the FIGs. 1-3 were objected to for lacking labels on elements 105-113. Applicant respectfully notes that these features are indicated in FIGs. 1-3 with appropriate numbers, contrary to the Office Action objection. However, to expedite prosecution, replacement FIGs. 1-3 are attached herewith. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by DiCamillo et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0061100, “DiCamillo”). For at least the reasons discussed below, Applicant respectfully requests the anticipatory rejections be withdrawn.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for transmitting information including, *inter alia*, receiving a virtual number at a first intermediate point, converting the virtual number into at least one physical number, determining a second intermediate point based on the at least one physical number, and determining at least one destination point based on the at least one physical number. Claim 6 is directed to an apparatus including, *inter alia*, a first intermediate point and a second intermediate point capable of communicating with

the first intermediate point, wherein the second intermediate point is determined based on its proximity to at least one destination point.

In a non-limiting exemplary embodiment, FIG. 1 illustrates a router 105 which communicates with a routing table 107 to determine to which router 109 a received virtual number corresponds. The routing table includes the physical number of the user 103 assigned to the virtual number. Router 105 connects to a second router 109, where the second router 109 is determined based on the proximity of router 109 to user 103. (See ¶¶0032-33).

DiCamillo describes a local gateway 22 which receives a call from a local CO 16 and retrieves information in a central database 24 storing information regarding an incoming virtual telephone number (VTN). The local gateway 22 contacts a central gatekeeper 26 to set up a VoIP leg of the call (DiCamillo at ¶0033). DiCamillo indicates only that the gatekeeper 26 informs the local gateway 22 of the correct destination gateway 28 to which the call is to be sent (DiCamillo at ¶0034) and nothing more. Then the originating gateway 22 contacts the destination gateway 28 over an intranet 30 (DiCamillo at ¶0035).

Unlike the claimed features recited in Applicant's Claim 1, the central gatekeeper 26 of DiCamillo is not determined based on a physical number. Instead, the gatekeeper 26 is a centralized fixture in DiCamillo's system controlling the routing between gateways 22, 28. Moreover, DiCamillo expressly teaches that the gateways 22 do not route calls independently of the gatekeeper 26 (DiCamillo at ¶0034: "one benefit of using the gatekeeper 26, rather than allowing each gateway 22 independently to route calls

solely on the basis of information from the database 24, is that the gatekeeper 26 may query each gateway 22 for network problems and resource utilization”).

Therefore, DiCamillo does not teach or suggest at least determining a second intermediate point based on the at least one physical number. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that DiCamillo does not teach or suggest all features of Claim 1.

Claim 6 also distinguishes over DiCamillo for at least the reasons discussed above. In particular, DiCamillo does not teach or suggest at least a second intermediate point determined based on its proximity to the at least one destination point.

Despite the asserting at page 4 of the Office Action that Fig. 1 of DiCamillo teaches a second intermediate point determined based on its proximity to the destination point, these portions of DiCamillo are silent with respect to any determination of a second intermediate point based on proximity. Instead, DiCamillo merely teaches that the central gatekeeper 26 instructs the originating gateway 22 to contact the destination gateway 28 to which the call is to be sent (DiCamillo at ¶0034).

Therefore, DiCamillo does not teach or suggest that a second intermediate point determined based on its proximity to the at least one destination point. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that DiCamillo does not teach or suggest all features of Claim 6.

Moreover, it is respectfully noted that the art rejections of Claims 3 and 13 based on inherency are improper. In particular, the rejections are conclusory and lack objective evidence or technical reasoning to “reasonably support the determination that the allegedly inherent characteristic necessarily flows from the teachings of the applied prior art.” *See* MPEP §2112 (emphasis in original).

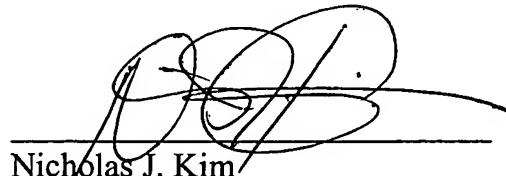
It is also submitted that the remaining dependent claims are each patentable at least by virtue of their dependence without need to rely upon the further patentable limitations contained therein. Accordingly, withdrawal of the art rejections is respectfully solicited.

New Claims 14-20 recite additional features not taught or suggested by DiCamillo and are therefore considered allowable.

For example, Claim 20 recites, *inter alia*, determining a second intermediate point using a first routing table at a first intermediate point, and determining at least one destination point using a second routing table at the second intermediate point. In a non-limiting exemplary embodiment, FIG. 1 illustrates routing tables 107, 113. DiCamillo does not teach or suggest the claimed intermediate points and routing tables. Instead, as previously noted, DiCamillo expressly teaches using a single gatekeeper 26 to route calls rather than allowing each gateway 22 to independently route calls (DiCamillo at ¶0034). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 20 is allowable over DiCamillo.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for formal allowance. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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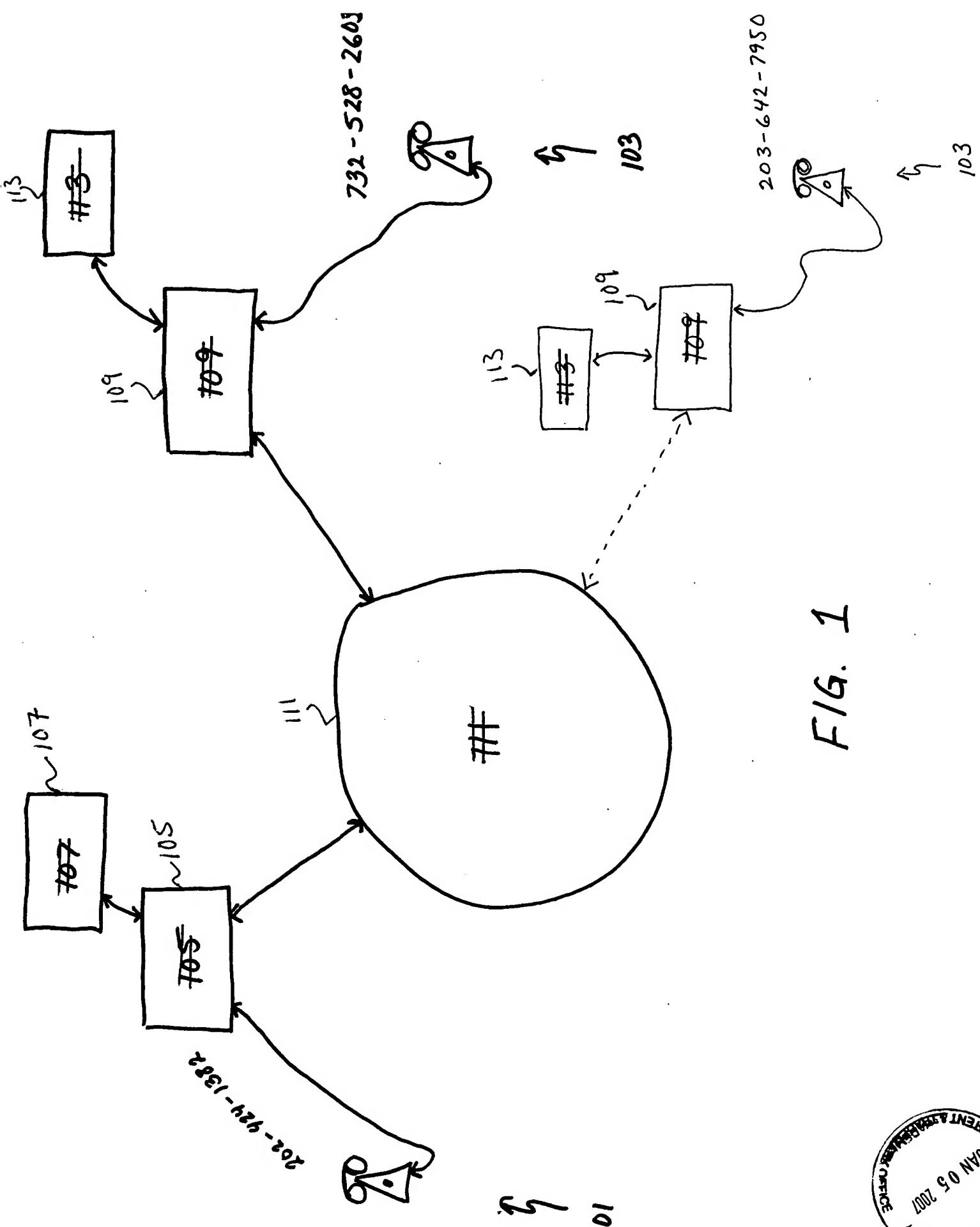


FIG. 1

FIG. 2

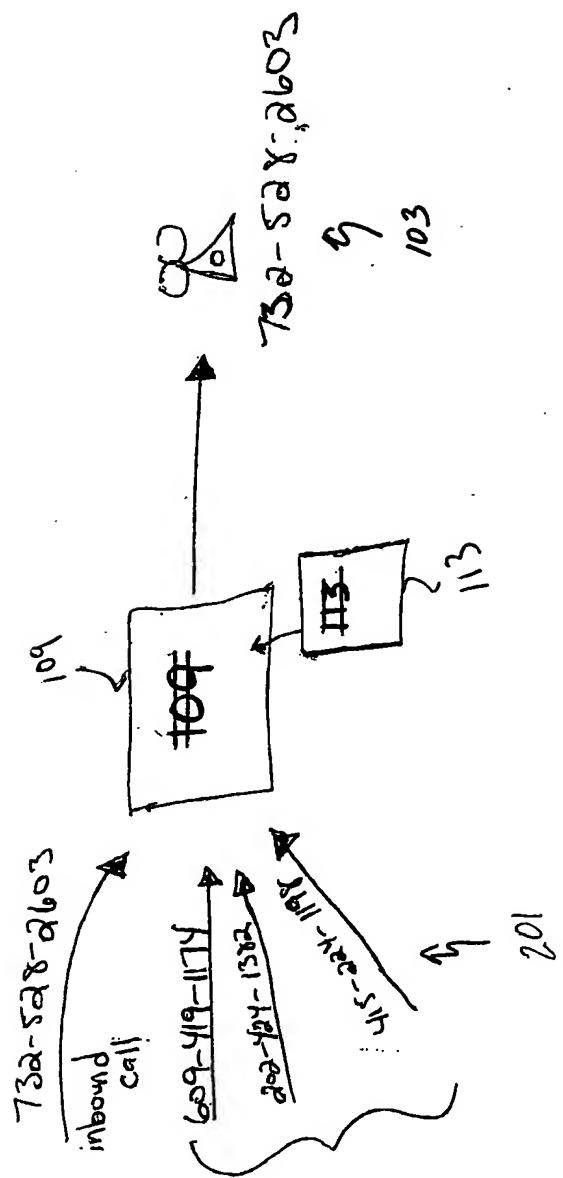


FIG. 3

